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Welcome to the *Iowa Renewable Energy Resource Guide*. The DNR is proud to provide a 2002 edition of this publication, as we highlight the milestones and achievements that make Iowa a leader in renewable energy development.

Our state's commitment to renewable energy is evident in the innovative commercial, demonstration and research projects taking place here. This publication shares several of those achievements to demonstrate the success and leadership being forged in Iowa.

We are intent in sharing much more.

Care of natural resources goes hand in hand with economic opportunities. This is perhaps most evident in the renewable energy industry. As we develop wind power, bio-energy and other clean energy technologies, we make Iowa's environment a top priority.

We also establish strong new industries for the financial well being of our citizens. Today, Iowans are collaborating to create a "BioEconomy," one that converts agricultural crops and residues into bio-based products and bio-energy.

In the near future, the world's chemi-

cals, manufactured goods, energy sources and much more will have their foundation in sustainably cultivated, Iowa-grown plants. We need to look for opportunities such as these that vigorously balance economics and environmental integrity. We should embrace them and make them a reality.

It is important that we recognize the policy makers, scientists, businesses, agriculturists and energy professionals who work every day to create a renewable energy industry in Iowa. Their work is setting the foundation for a cleaner environment. It also helps achieve our state's goal of being a net energy exporter.

Today, I ask you to take part in protecting and sustaining our natural world. Natural resources are critical to our daily lives, and energy choices make a difference. Choosing renewable energy for your vehicles, businesses and homes will help the industry become stronger and the future even brighter for Iowa.

The Department of Natural Resources will continue its efforts to expand renewable energy in our state, ensuring a better environment, stronger economy and improved energy security. We look forward to your participation in doing the same. Thank you for your commitment.